

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00050 01 OF 02 130227Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 IO-13 /060 W
-----002518 130840Z /11

R 130100Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8894
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0050/1

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4 DIMPTD
TAGS: SREF CGEN PDIP SPOP VM AS BE UK RP IN
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MISSIONS' EXPERIENCES WITH FAMILY REUNION CASES
IN THE SRV

SUMMARY: VARIOUS WESTERN DIPLOMATS RESIDENT IN HANOI
TELL US THAT FAMILY REUNION CASES COMPRISE THE BULK OF
THEIR EMBASSIES'S WORKLOAD. EACH MISSION SEEMS TO HAVE
UNIQUE FAMILY REUNION CASE PROBLEMS. MOST OF THE FRENCH
CASES DEAL WITH REPATRIATING ETHNIC VIETNAMESE WITH A
CLAIM TO FRENCH CITIZENSHIP, THE INDIAN AND PHILIPPINES
WITH REPATRIATING THEIR NATIONALS WHO HAVE VIETNAMESE
CITIZEN FAMILIES, THE BRITISH WITH REPATRIATING HONG
KONG CHINESE, AND THE BELGIAN AND AUSTRALIAN WITH
REUNITING FAMILY MEMBERS OF VIETNAMESE RESIDING IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00050 01 OF 02 130227Z

THOSE COUNTRIES. SOME WESTERN DIPLOMATS WORKING ON
FAMILY REUNION CASES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE SRV GOVERN-
MENT EVENTUALLY GRANTED EXIT PERMISSION FOR MIXED BLOOD
VIETNAMESE BUT THAT, AS A RULE, IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT
FOR ETHNIC VIETNAMESE UNDER 40 TO OBTAIN AN EXIT VISA. END SUMMARY.

1. THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO HANOI TOLD US IN EARLY

JANUARY 1978 THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 350 TO 400 VIETNAMESE WHO HAD APPLIED FOR AN IMMIGRANT VISATO BELGIUM TO JOIN THEIR FAMILIES THERE. ALTHOUGH HE REGULARLY MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SRV GOVERNMENT ON THEIR BEHALF, THE SRV SO FAR HAD BEEN UNRESPONSIVE. ONLY IN THE CASE OF TWO YOUNG VIETNAMESE CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS RESIDED IN BELGIUM DID THE SRV GRANT EXIT PERMISSION AND DID SO CLAIMING THAT IT WAS A "GESTURE GV VIETNAMESE/ BELGIAN FRIENDSHIP." THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT MOST OF THE ZNLGIAN FAMILY REUNION CASES INVOLVED ETHNIC VIETNAMESE.

2. ACCORDING TO AN AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMAT RESIFINT IN HANOI, ONLY ABOUT TEN VIETNAMESE HAD BEEN GRANTED EXIT PERMISSION BY THE SRV GOVERNMENT TO JOIN THEIR FAMILIES IN AUSTRALIA. HE SAID THAT THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN HANOI RECEIVED ABOUT TWENTY LETTERS A WEEK FROM VIETNAMESE LIVING IN HO CHI MINK CITY REQUESTING A VISA FOR AUSTRALIA AND THAT THEIR LETTERS WERE APPARENTLY UNCENSORED. THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY MAILED "ENTRY PERMISSION" DOCUMENTS TO ONLY ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF THESE APPLICANTS. THE DIPLOMAT SAID THAT HIS EMBASSY WAS LENIENT IN GRANTING ENTRY PERMISSION (NOTABLY IN THE CASES OF VIETNAMESE GIRLS WHO CLAIM TO HAVE AN AUSTRALIAN FIANCEE) BECAUSE OF THE UNLIKELIHOOD THAT HO CHI MINH CITY AUTHORITIES WOULD ACTUALLY GRANT THEM EXIT PERMISSION. HE SAID THAT ETHNIC VIETNAMESE HAD THE MOST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00050 01 OF 02 130227Z

DIFFICULT TIME OBTAINING EXIT PERMISSION AND THAT SINO/VIETNAMESE SEEMED TO BE READILY GRANTED EXIT APPROVAL. HE SAID THAT THE GROWING VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA WAS A BILATERAL ISSUE. AFTER THE HIGHJACKED FREIGHTER INCIDENT IN DARWIN, VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS INFORMALLY EXPRESSED TO AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATS IN HANOI THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH AUSTRALIA'S REFUGEE POLICY. HE NOTED THAT AT THIS SAME TIME, THE SRV SEEMED TO BE ALLOWING BOATLOADS OF SINO/VIETNAMESE TO PASS THROUGH ITS COASTAL NET.

3. THE MALAYSIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN VIENTIANE TOLD US THAT THEY ONLY HAD ONE FAMILY REUNIONCASE INVOLVING THE VIETNAMESE WIFE OF A MALAYSIAN DIPLOMAT. AFTER ALMOST A YEAR AND A HALF OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE SRV GRANTED EXIT APPROVAL TO THE DIPLOMAT'S WIFE, AND SHE DEPARTED HO CHI MINK CITY ON AN AIR FRANCE CHARTER

AUGUST , 1977.

4. THE LAST SCHEDULED AIR FRANCE CHARTER LEFT HO CHI

MINH CITY DECEMBER 29 CARRYING FRENCH NATIONALS AND VIETNAMESE WITH A CLAIM TO FRENCH CITIZENSHIP, BUT, ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH CONSUL IN VIENTIANE, MORE FLIGHTS MIGHT BE SCHEDULED IN 1978. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE STILL AN ESTIMATED 2000 VIETNAMESE WITH A CLAIM TO FRENCH CITIZENSHIP IN HO CHI MINH CITY. THE FRENCH CONSUL SAID THAT, IN THE PAST, VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN COOPERATIVE IN GRANTING EXIT PERMISSION. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, FRENCH DIPLOMATS IN HO CHI MINH CITY HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT ETHNIC VIETNAMESE WHO VISIT THE FRENCH CONSULATE WERE BEING HARASSED BY THE SRV GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT FOR ETHNIC VIETNAMESE UNDER THE AGE OF 40 YEARS TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 VIENTI 00050 01 OF 02 130227Z

OBTAIN EXIT PERMISSION AND MIGHT SOON BE IMPOSSIBLE.

5. AN AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMAT TOLD US IN DECEMBER 1977 THAT THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN HANOI HAD ARRANGED A FLIGHT TO REPATRIATE SIXTY PHILIPPINE CITIZENS WHO HAD REMAINED IN HO CHI MINH CITY BECAUSE THEY HAD VIETNAMESE WIVES AND CHILDREN. THE REPATRIATEES DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE THEIR VIETNAMESE FAMILIES BEHIND EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THE MEN ALSO HAD A PHILIPPINE WIFE IN THEIR HOME COUNTRY. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE PHILIPPINE MEN HAD NOW AGREED TO RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES FIRST TO "SOFTEN THE GROUND AT HOME" WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT A SECOND FLIGHT WOULD FLY THEIR VIETNAMESE FAMILIES TO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00050 02 OF 02 130830Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 IO-13 /060 W
-----004527 130839Z /11
R 130100Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8895
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0050/2

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

MANILA. THE SOURCE DOUBTED WHETHER THE SECOND FLIGHT WOULD EVEN ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE.

6. THE BRITISH FIRST SECRETARY IN HANOI TOLD US THAT SHE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT THE PLIGHT OF THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IN HO CHI MINH CITY WAS "DIRE" AND THAT MANY OF THE MERCHANTS, DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIVELIHOODS, HAD BECOME CHARITY CASES IN THE BUDDHIST TEMPLES. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE IND RED CROSS HAD SPONSORED ONE CHARTER FLIGHT TO REPATRIATE INDIAN NATIONALS THROUGH THE AUSPICES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS BUT HAD TRIED TO MAKE IN-KIND PAYMENTS FOR THE FLIGHT EXPENSES. A SECOND FLIGHT REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN DELAYED UNTIL PAYMENT IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE COULD BE ASSURED. THE SOURCE SAID THAT ETHNIC INDIANS HAD FEW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00050 02 OF 02 130830Z

DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING EXIT PERMISSION FROM THE HO CHI MINH CITY AUTHORITIES. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, WAS REPORTEDLY STRICT IN ITS DEFINITION OF INDIAN CITIZENSHIP AND MANY INDIANS HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS WERE NOT ELIGIBLE TO GO TO INDIA.

7. THE SAME SOURCE SAID THAT THE SRV AUTHORITIES HAD NOT YET GRANTED EXIT PERMISSION TO SEVERAL ETHNIC VIETNAMESE WHO WANTED TO JOIN THEIR FAMILIES IN BRITAIN. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD EVENTUALLY GRANTED EXIT PERMISSION FOR AN ETHNIC VIETNAMESE WOMAN MARRIED TO A BRITISH CITIZEN, FOR THE MOTHER OF A VIETNAMESE LIVING IN BRITAIN, AND FOR THE MOTHER AND BROTHER OF ANOTHER VIETNAMESE LIVING IN BRITAIN. BASED ON HIS WORKING EXPERIENCES, THE HONORARY BRITISH CONSUL IN HO CHI MINH CITY REPORTEDLY SPECULATED THAT THE SRV AUTHORITIES WOULD DENY EXIT PERMISSION TO THOSE VIETNAMESE WHO HAD CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH THE FORMER THIEU REGIME. NONE OF THE THREE CASES MENTIONED ABOVE HAD CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH THE FORMER GOVERNMENT.

8. THE HONORARY BRITISH CONSUL IN HO CHI MINH CITY WORKS PRIMARILY TO REPATRIATE HONG KONG RESIDENTS. THE BRITISH FIRST SECRETARY SAID IN EARLY DECEMBER THAT BY THE END OF 1977 ABOUT 5,000 PERSONS WITH A CLAIM TO BE CONSIDERED HONG KONG RESIDENTS WOULD HAVE DEPARTED HO CHI MINH CITY FOR HONG KONG ON CATHAY PACIFIC CHARTER FLIGHTS. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE CHARTER FLIGHTS WERE NOT EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR MUCH LONGER ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT MOST OF THE QUALIFIED CASES WOULD ALREADY HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED. VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES WERE REPORTEDLY EAGER TO GRANT EXIT PERMISSION TO SINO/VIETNAMESE AND ON ONE OCCASION HAD AUTHORIZED SINO/CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00050 02 OF 02 130830Z

VIETNAMESE WITH TAIWANESE DOCUMENTS TO LEAVE ON THE CATHAY PACIFIC CHARTER FOR HONG KONG. HONG KONG AUTHORITIES BLOCKED THE TRANSIT OF THESE TAIWANESE.

9. WESTERN DIPLOMATS FROM HANOI TELL US THAT NEARLY ALL OF THEIR FAMILY REUNION APPLICANTS ARE RESIDENTS OF HO CHI MINH CITY. THE BRITISH FIRST SECRETARY SAID THAT THE SRV WANTED TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF HO CHI MINH CITY FROM AN ESTIMATED FOUR MILLION POPULATION TO TWO AND A HALF. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE SRV RECENTLY CLAIMED TO BE HALF WAY TO MEETING THIS GOAL AFTER IT HAD RESETTLED 700,000 PEOPLE IN THE NEW ECONOMIC ZONES. SINO/VIETNAMESE AND INDIANS, TRADITIONALLY MERCHANTS AND URBAN DWELLERS, WERE SAID TO BE ILL-SUITED FOR AGRICULTURAL LIFE IN THE NEW ECONOMIC ZONES.

10. COMMENT: SRV POLICY ON GRANTING EXIT PERMISSION SEEMS TO BE DIRECTED MORE AT ALLOWING AGRICULTURALLY ILL-SUITED PEOPLE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY THAN TO A SERIOUS CONCERN FOR REUNITING FAMILY MEMBERS. WHEN AND IF THE U.S. ESTABLISHED AN EMBASSY HERE DEPT CAN EXPECT

OUR NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING FAMILY REUNION CASES TO BE COMPLICATED. BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER MISSIONS, THE VIETNAMESE WILL BE RELUCTANT TO GIVE EXIT PERMISSION TO YOUNG ETHNIC VIETNAMESE. THEY WILL MORE READILY GRANT EXIT PERMISSION TO CHILDREN OF MIXED BLOOD, AND TO SINO AND KHMER/VIETNAMESE. JUDGING FROM THE FRENCH REPORT, WE WOULD ALSO EXPECT THAT THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE EMBARRASSED IF TOO MANY OF THEIR CITIZENS EAGERLY SOUGHT PERMISSION TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT RESORT TO HARASSING CITIZENS WHO MAKE SUCH REQUESTS.
ROBERTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPATRIATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VIENTI00050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4 DIMPTD
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780019-1257
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780163/aaaacbpt.tel
Line Count: 276
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2aa963e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3775190
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MISSIONS\ EXPERIENCES WITH FAMILY REUNION CASES IN THE SRV SUMMARY: VARIOUS WESTERN DIPLOMATS
RESIDENT IN HA
TAGS: SREF, CGEN, PDIP, SPOP, VM, AS, BE, UK, RP, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2aa963e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014